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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.		25X1A
SUBJECT	Manp'ojin Political Prison	DATE DISTR.	15 January 1954	
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1. [] the Manp'ojin political prison was in a valley about two miles southeast of Manp'ojin. The prison was circular in shape. In the center there was a large watch tower equipped with a German light machine gun. Surrounding the buildings were three rows of electrified barbed wire, and farther out were three more rows of non-electrified barbed wire. Outside the barbed wire area were several watchtowers which surrounded the prison. The entire compound was on a slight hill. The prisoners' quarters were dug into the hillside.
2. The commandant of the prison was a senior colonel in a North Korean Ministry of Internal Affairs guard unit. The jailers were called instructors, and a great many of them were women. Most of the jailers were fanatical Communists, picked because they had had friends or relatives killed by United Nations troops. The guards were armed with sub-machine guns, which looked like the United States 30-caliber carbine M-1.
3. There were approximately 3,000 political prisoners held at the prison, over half of whom were women. About 1,000 were former students and other young unmarried women. Other prisoners consisted of former North Korean officials, former North Korean army officers, and captured ROK agents. All prisoners were serving terms of more than 15 years, those with shorter terms having been released under the amnesty decree of 15 August 1953. The death rate among the prisoners averaged six to eight per day.

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